



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

APR - 1 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Public Identification of Casualties

As required by Section 546 of Public Law 108-136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (attached), this memorandum establishes policy relative to the public release of names or other personally identifying information of any member of the Military Services who while on active duty or inactive duty for training is killed or injured; whose duty status becomes unknown; or who is otherwise considered to be a casualty.

No casualty information on deceased military personnel may be released to the media or the general public until 24 hours after notifying the next-of-kin regarding the casualty status of the member. Casualty information on ill or injured Service members may not be released without the consent of the individual, unless release is otherwise authorized by the Privacy Act of 1974.

In the cases of Service members who have been unaccounted for from past conflicts, public release cannot occur until 24 hours after the family accepts the member's identification, or 24 hours after the family has been notified that the Armed Forces Identification Review Board has upheld the identification.

The purpose of this policy is to respect and provide for the privacy of the families in the immediate aftermath of notification of the loss or injury of a Service member or of notification of the recovery and identification of a Service member who has been unaccounted for or missing.



This policy is effective immediately and will be incorporated in the next revision of DoDI 1300.18, "Military Personnel Casualty Matters, Policies, and Procedures".



David S. C. Chu

Attachment:

As stated

cc:

Chief of Staff of the Army

Chief of Naval Operations

Chief of Staff of the Air Force

Commandant of the Marine Corps

ASA(M&RA)

ASN(M&RA)

ASAF(MR)

USD(P)

ASD(ISA)

ASD(PA)

ASD(RA)